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February 25, 2005

Box Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants: Howard M. Kingston

Assignee: Metara, Inc.

Title: Method And Apparatus For Automated In-Process, Isotope Dilution  
Threshold And Quantification Measurement Mass Spectrometry

Application No.: 10/004,627      Filing Date: December 4, 2001

Examiner: James P. Hughes      Group Art Unit: 2883

Docket No.: M-15307 US      Confirmation No.: 6740

Irvine, California  
February 25, 2005

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents in the above-identified application:

- (1) Return Postcard;
- (2) This Transmittal Letter (1 page);
- (3) Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages);
- (4) Form PTO/SB/08A & Form PTO/SB/08B (2 pages);
- (5) Copy of European Search Report for International Application No. 01996118.4-2113-US0146539; and
- (6) Copy of three (3) cited references.

No fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. If a fee is required, please charge the fee to deposit account 50-2257. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

  
Monique M. Butler      February 25, 2005  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jonathan W. Hallman  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 42,622



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Howard M. Kingston  
Assignee: Metara, Inc.  
Title: Method And Apparatus For Automated In-Process, Isotope Dilution Threshold And Quantification Measurement Mass Spectrometry  
**Application No.:** 10/004,627      **Filing Date:** December 4, 2001  
**Examiner:** James P. Hughes      **Group Art Unit:** 2883  
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Commissioner For Patents  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(B) WITH  
CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(E)(1)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to call the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B (Total 2 pages) to the Examiner's attention for the above-identified patent application. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed. The documents were first cited by the European Search Report EP Application No. 01996118.4-2113-US0146539. The relevance of any foreign language documents is explained in the accompanying European Search Report.

Citation of the above documents shall not be construed as:

1. an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
2. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or

3. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

**Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d)**

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

No fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. If a fee is required, please charge the fee to deposit account 50-2257.

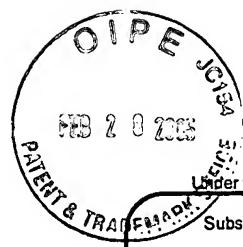
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 25, 2003.

  
Monique M. Butler

February 25, 2005  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jonathan W. Hallman  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 42,622



EB 2 0 7083

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

Approved for use through 07/01/2003. GPO 2000-000.

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**Substitute for form 1449/PTO**

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/004,627
Filing Date	December 4, 2001
First Named Inventor	Howard M. Kingston
Art Unit	2883
Examiner Name	James P. Hughes
Attorney Docket Number	M-15307 US

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> ~Number <sup>4</sup> ~Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		WO 00/52735 A	09-08-2000	Bruker Dalton		
		GB 2349 270 A	10-25-2000	Hitachi		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**Complete if Known****INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

2

of

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Application Number	10/004,627
Filing Date	December 4, 2001
First Named Inventor	Howard M. Kingston
Art Unit	2883
Examiner Name	James P. Hughes
Attorney Docket Number	M-15307 US

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		STEWART I. I. et al.; "Development in the Electrospray Mass Spectrometry of Inorganic Species; Trac, Trends in Analytical Chemistry. Cambridge, GB; vol. 15; no. 2; 02/01/1996.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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